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ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1948

BY
G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

TOGETHER WITH

The Report
OF
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Members of the Council

Chairman:

H. WILLIAMSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

W. G. D. CAMERON

Members:

A. ARMSTRONG

W. G. BACK

G. I. BREW

H. T. COURT

G. W. DRUCE

MRS. A. M. R. HOOPER

C. H. STEPHENS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G

Sanitary Inspector:

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Pupil Assistant:

J S. RUCK

Clerks:

B. G. HARRIS

MRS. I. M. PENTECOST

Public Health Department:

Council Offices, Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Eighth Annual Report, on the health of the district for the year 1948.

DIPHTHERIA

On the 5th July 1948, arrangements for vaccination and immunisation were transferred to the County Council by the National Health Service Act 1946. A close liaison is maintained with the Divisional Medical Officer and the arrangements for immunisation at the local clinic, which have worked so smoothly in the past, have not been disturbed.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were fifteen new cases during the year as compared with 12, 12, 15, 10, and 18 respectively in the years 1947 to 1943 inclusive. These figures do not include cases in Shenley Hospital.

FOOD PREPARERS

During the year regular sampling of ice cream was commenced, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Ministry of Health Bulletin for March 1947. The requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 are being strictly enforced at premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

HOUSING

Three hundred and thirty-one permanent houses were completed and occupied during the year.

GENERAL

I must again express my thanks to the Members of the Council for their support during the year and to the staff of the Public Health Department for their keenness and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. WINN EVERETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,339 acres
Population, 1921 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,513
Population, 1931 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	*5,946
Registrar-General's estimate of							
(a) resident population mid-1948	...						12,730
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	...						
Number of inhabited houses							3,138
(end of 1948) according							
to Rate Books	...						
Rateable Value (1st April, 1949)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£128,669
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April 1949)							£520

* Adjusted in respect of alteration of boundary in 1935.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises the parishes of Shenley and Ridge which are chiefly agricultural and residential, and Elstree. In Elstree the principal occupations are industrial, more particularly the film studios and allied industries, photographic processing, knitting mills, electrical accessories and light engineering. Elstree is to some extent residential, particularly on the west side of the London Midland Region Railway Line. On the east side of the London Midland Region Railway Station, in the Boreham Wood portion of the parish, considerable development has taken place in the past decade. A number of new factories were erected immediately prior to and during the war. Various types of industry are represented including the manufacture of cosmetics and pharmaceutical chemicals, petrol tanks, pistons, ventilation equipment as well as printing and light engineering works.

VITAL STATISTICS

					Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	...	...	...	223	105	118
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	13	7	6

Birth Rate: 18.5 per 1,000 *estimated resident population.*

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	8	4	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	10	2	8
Rate: 40.7 per 1,000 <i>total (live and still) births.</i>							

Deaths	...	...	...	...	93	50	43
Death Rate: 7.3 per 1,000 <i>estimated average population.</i>							

The Comparability Factor (furnished by the Registrar-General to correct anomalies in age and sex distribution, compared with the country as a whole) is not available for 1948. The Death Rates for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of London respectively are given as 10.8 and 11.6 per 1,000 population.

				Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
<i>Deaths from puerperal causes:—</i>					
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	Nil		—
Other puerperal causes	...	...	Nil		—
Total	...	...	Nil		—

Death rates of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	33.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	35.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	—

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

One part-time Medical Officer of Health.

One whole-time Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector.

One whole-time Assistant Sanitary Inspector who is studying for the qualifying examination of the Joint Board.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Examination of sputum is carried out at the Herts County Council laboratory. Swabs are examined by the Clinical Research Association. Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are examined at the Public Health Sector Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Cases of infectious diseases are conveyed by the Coppetts Wood Hospital Ambulance. The ambulance for non-infectious cases provided by the Herts County Council is stationed at Associated British Studios and is manned by the private fire brigade staff. If this service is not available Ambulances are on call from a pool controlled by the West Herts Divisional Control, St. Albans.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME

There are Nursing Associations in Elstree, Boreham Wood, Shenley and Ridge, supplying three whole-time nurses who work under the Herts County Council. There is no special nursing for infectious diseases.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:—

(i) Maternity and Child Welfare
First Aid Post, Shenley Road,
Boreham Wood

Ante-Natal:
2nd and 4th Thursdays
at 2 p.m.

Infants:
Tuesdays: 2 to 4 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation:
2nd Wednesday in each
month at 10.15 a.m.

(ii) School Dental Clinic
Hillside Secondary Modern School,
Boreham Wood

Wednesdays:
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(Closed as from 1st May
1948 due to resignation
of School Dental Officer).

(c) HOSPITALS

The Rural District of Elstree is covered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Individual hospitals are managed by Hospital Management Committee Groups.

Barnet Group No. 5 Hospital Management Committee

Wellhouse Hospital

General Hospital with complement of 550 beds, including maternity beds. Has facilities for operative surgery, X-ray, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, pathology etc. Regular consultative clinics are as follows:—

Ante-natal	Orthopaedic
Dental	Paediatric
Dermatological	Post-Natal
Ear, Nose & Throat	Psychiatric
Fractures	Radiotherapy
Gynaecological	Surgical
Medical	Tuberculosis
Ophthalmological	

Barnet Isolation Hospital

Closed as Isolation Hospital, temporarily used as Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic. Future permanent use not yet determined.

Victoria Hospital Wood Street,
Barnet

Bed complement 52.

Clare Hall Hospital

Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

Mid Herts Group (No. 7) Hospital Management Committee

Hill End Hospital and Clinic,
St. Albans

Child Psychiatric and Guidance service.

Mondays to Fridays: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(Patients seen by appointment only)

Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Rd.
St. Albans

Venereal Diseases:

Attendances:

Females:

Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon and
5 to 7 p.m. Fridays 2 to 4 p.m.

Males:

Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m. Fridays
5 to 7 p.m.

West Herts Group (No. 9) Hospital Management Committee

Bushey Hospital, Bushey

Bed Complement 38

Northern Group (No. 20) Hospital Management Committee

Coppetts Wood Hospital,
London, N.10.
(Tel.: TUDor 1160)

All cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding Smallpox) are taken to this hospital. Bed complement 144.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) WATER

The following information with respect to the water supply of the area is given in accordance with Circular 3/49 of the Ministry of Health.

1. The water supply was maintained during 1948 at a satisfactory standard in (a) quality and (b) quantity.
2. The Colne Valey Water Company are the suppliers and they state that regular and numerous chemical and bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the water going into supply were carried out. The results were consistently satisfactory.
3. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
4. There was no action during the year in respect of any contamination.
5. Of the 3,138 houses in the district
 - (a) About 3,099 or 99 per cent. are supplied from piped water mains direct to the house and
 - (b) About 25 or 1 per cent. by means of standpipes.
 The few remaining houses are without piped water supply. One sample of water, from storage cistern supplied by mains was taken during the year, for bacteriological examination. The result was satisfactory.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No important extension was carried out during the year.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Several cases of minor pollutions of streams have been investigated. The factory estate on the south side of Elstree Way, Boreham Wood, has given rise to several instances of oil pollution of water courses. One serious case of stream pollution was dealt with by the installation of an oil interceptor.

Two ponds were treated with D.D.T. as a precaution against the breeding of mosquitoes.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of about 80 pail closets at out-lying farms and farm cottages all the dwelling houses in the district are served by water closets; these, with the exception of a few which discharge into cesspools, are connected to public sewers.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping at Green Street, Shenley.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The prescribed tabular statement is contained in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which commences on page 12.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No statutory action was taken during the year.

(v) CAMPING SITES

- (a) The number of sites in the area which were used during 1948 was one, licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.
- (b) Ten annual licences authorising individual applicants to station and use moveable dwellings were issued during the year.
- (c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, excluding holders of individual licences, 40.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT

No statutory action was taken during the year. The Council is a constituent member of the London and Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Council; the Sanitary Inspector represents the Hertfordshire Local Authorities on the Executive Committee.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the area.

4. SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. The water is supplied by the Colne Valley Water Company. The schools are visited regularly by the Assistant School Medical Officer, and especially on an outbreak of any infectious disease for the purpose of excluding or examining possible contacts and advising on any necessary measures.

No schools were closed for infectious disease.

SECTION D**HOUSING**

During the year 13 inspections and visits were made in connection with the Rural housing survey. Five sub-standard Council-owned houses at Green Street, Shenley were closed and the tenants provided with alternative accommodation.

SECTION E**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD****(a) MILK SUPPLY**

See page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLIES

See page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's report.

(c) ICE CREAM

See page 18 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

There were 16 cases of scarlet fever. The disease was of a mild type, and there were no deaths. Fifteen of the cases were removed to Isolation Hospitals.

There were no cases of diphtheria. Diphtheria anti-toxin is immediately available if required.

Disinfection of infected premises is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning in the district.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	16	15	1
Diphtheria	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1
Erysipelas	3	1	1
Measles	79	2	1
Whooping Cough	10	1	1
Pneumonia	4	1	1
Dysentery	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis	5	5	1

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up
Scarlet Fever			2		2	9	2		1			
Diphtheria												
Erysipelas										1	2	
Measles		4	6	6	10	52	1					
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	2	4	1					
Pneumonia							1	1	1	1		
Dysentery												
Puerperal Pyrexia												
Poliomyelitis	1					2			1		1	

Tuberculosis—*New cases and mortality during 1948.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	1							
1—5 ...	1							
5—15 ...	1		2		1			
15—25 ...	3	2			1			
25—35 ...	3	3	1		2			
35—45 ...	5	1			1			
45—55 ...								
55—65 ...	1							
65 and up ...						1		
* TOTALS	14	6	3		5	1		

* Including 11 cases from Shenley Hospital, 8 new cases and 3 deaths.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

One of the outstanding features of this, my tenth Annual Report, is the record of Statutory Notices served and proceedings instituted to enforce the provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts. In this respect, I have been encouraged by your keenness to support me in pressing for essential repairs to be carried out. It is well known that the reasonable maintenance of dwelling houses has been much neglected during the war years and we are only just beginning to get back into our stride again. There are still many difficulties and owners frequently emphasize to me that their rents are at pre-war level, while the cost of repairs has risen steeply. It is not within my province to enter into this controversy, which one hears raised again and again at Conferences without any tangible result being achieved, but I am persuaded that it is often necessary to temper justice with mercy and not attempt to enforce too rigidly the letter of the law. At the same time, it is vitally important that people's homes should not be permitted to fall into extreme disrepair and I am assured that your support will be forthcoming in every effort that I can make to prevent it.

I regret that I should have to record that the Council was unsuccessful in its efforts to secure the repair of a domestic hot water system. We can take comfort in the reflection that it was a battle worth fighting.

Once again I would like to thank my colleagues for their co-operation and assistance during the year and reiterate to you my appreciation of your invaluable support.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL,

Sanitary Inspector.

TOTAL 2,592

DETAILS OF INTIMATION NOTICES & STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Intimation Notices

Nature of Principal Defects	No. of Notices served
General housing defects including leaking roofs, dampness, defective plaster, floors, window-frames, etc....	46
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act 1936)	7
Overcrowding	—
Drainage	18
Defective paving of yards and passages	4
Defective w.c. and sink connections	18
Absence of, or dilapidated dustbins	11
Choked and insanitary water courses	2
Filthy or verminous premises	2
Insufficient water supply (including burst pipes, leaking tanks, etc.)	9
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Co.) ...	3
Offensive accumulations	1
Improper keeping of animals	—
Dairies and cowsheds... ..	1
Food Preparers	1
Factories and Offices	1
Bakehouses	—
Stables and Piggeries	—
Nuisance from smoke or effluvia	—
TOTAL	124

Statutory Notices

Nature of defects	Statute	No of Notices served	No. of Houses or Premises affected
Houses not reasonably fit	Section, 9 Housing Act 1936	2	2
Defective drain ...	Section 39, Public Health Act 1936	1	1
Nuisances	Section 93 Public Health Act 1936	14	14
Dilapidated dustbins	Section 75, Public Health Act 1936	1	1
Water Supply ...	Section 138 Public Health Act 1936	1	1

Legal Proceedings

36 Drayton Road	Section 93 Public Health Act 1936.	Nuisance Order 42 days.
31 Clarendon Road	Section 75 Public Health Act 1936.	Work carried out in default.
61 Whitehouse Ave. (requiring the repair of a dilapidated domestic hot water system).	Section 9 Housing Act 1936	Appeal against decision of County Court in the Supreme Court of Judi- cature Court of Appeal. Unsuccessful.

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

	No. of Houses
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	22
Floors repaired	10
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed...	3
Leaking roofs and gutters repaired	14
External brickwork repointed or repaired	8
Dirty rooms cleansed or redecorated	3
Dampness remedied	8
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed ...	7
Facilities for domestic washing provided or improved ...	2
Adequate water supply provided	—
Hot and cold supply cisterns repaired or renewed ...	10
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	9
W.c. and sink connections repaired... ..	28
Paving to yards and passages repaired	10
Dustbins provided	12
Water courses cleansed	1
Accumulations removed	1
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	1
Cowsheds and dairies limewashed	—
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	—
Cowshed approaches cleansed	1
Food preparers' premises improved	2
Rooms disinfected	22
Verminous houses disinfested	18
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	—
Factory defects remedied	1
Smoke nuisances remedied	—
Moveable dwellings removed	—
Stables and Piggeries limewashed	—
Miscellaneous	1
TOTAL	194

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	1	18	15	—	223
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	6	—	—	1
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ...	—	33%	—	—	4%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	6	—	—	3
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with tuber- culosis	—	39%	—	—	1.3%

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Number of accredited milk producers	12
Number of tuberculin tested milk producers	3
Number of other producers	7
Number of retail purveyors	13

During the year 172 inspections were made of cowsheds, dairies and milkshops.

The following table gives the results of samples taken in the District by the County Council Sampling Officers and by the Sanitary Inspector on behalf of the County Council:—

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Failed Meth. Blue	Failed B. Coli	Failed Both	Failed Phos. Test
Accredited Milk	65	49	14	1	1	—
T.T. Milk	19	15	—	3	1	—
School Milk	9	8	—	—	—	1
Pasteurised Milk	24	—	—	—	—	3

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947

There were 5 premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for manufacture and sale, and 4 premises registered for the sale, of ice cream.

Fifteen samples were taken during the year of which details are given below:—

No. of Samples	Results			
	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
15	2	4	2	7

Provisional Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory, Grades 3 and 4 as unsatisfactory.

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	45
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	2
---	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: ...	
--	--

(a) By owners	2
----------------------	---

(b) By local authority in default of owners —	
---	--

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ..	16
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
---	--

(a) By owners	16
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(b) By local authority in default of owners —	
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